accordance with convention No. 131 the needs of workers and their families and economic factors including the requirements of economic development and high level of employment are the elements to be taken into consideration while determining the level of minimum wages. Neither of these Conventions specify the actual minimum wages to be paid to any categories of workers in member states. India has ratified Convention No. 26 but not Convention No. 131.

ESI Hospitals at Triupathi and Nizamabad

2364. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad are not having full fledged medical facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to expand their activities for the benefits of local labourers covered under ESI benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in die State Government/ Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. The ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad were commissioned recently. The medical facilities for out-patient services and inpatient service for medical, surgical and diagnostic purposes are available in the ESI hospital at Tirupathi.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has planned to provide endoscopy, neurology and cardiology services in the hospital at Tirupathi. In Nizamabad ESI hospital specialist out-patient services have been started with effect from 3.2.2000. Necessary action is already being taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to start all in-patient services in the hospital at Nizamabad.

Central legislation for workers

2365. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for enactment of Central Legislation to safeguard the interests of workers engaged in agriculture and construction works; and